

## **IHFA YMA (Young Members) National Awards recipients**

### **Presidents Medal Award & National Hall of Fame Award**

Cork club YMA member Gerard Kirby is the recipient of the Irish Holstein Friesian Association Young Members (YMA) Presidents Medal award.

The Presidents Medal is awarded to a YMA aged member of the Association.

Gerard was nominated for this prestigious National award by his local Cork YMA club. In nominating Gerard to go forward as a candidate the Club hailed Gerard's stellar participation and active involvement in the club over many years. He served as Chairman of Cork YMA from 2016 to 2019. He is also a representative of the Cork club at National YMA.

An overview of Gerard's achievements in YMA to date includes;

- Champion handler at the Cork YMA Calf Show 2016
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in the YMA National Showmanship League Final 2016
- Represented Ireland at the UK HYB annual Rally in 2016 and 2017, competing in clipping and showmanship respectively.
- A member of the Cork YMA Stockjudging team at the IHFA Open Day 2017 and 2019
- Winner of the National YMA Photographic Competition 2018
- Awarded Cork Club person of year 2018
- Home-bred calf Mounteen Punch Nuala won Champion Calf of Cork Club Calf Show 2017
- Home bred Mounteen Punch Honey won Reserve Champion Calf of Cork Club Calf Show 2019

In addition to helping out on the family's Mounteen registered herd, located near Ballinascarthy in West Cork, Gerard also works for the local Barryroe co-op store.

Candidates nominated by their respective clubs for the YMA Presidents Medal were interviewed by IHFA President P.J. Kelly and Charles Gallagher C.E.

### **Brian Corley, nominated by the Breffni Oriel Club is the YMA Hall of Fame recipient**

#### **The Hall of Fame is an annual award presented to a Senior member in recognition of assistance and guidance to local YMA**

Brian commenced dairy farming as his chosen career in 1995 when he took over the running of the family's Cornboro herd. Together with his wife Anita and family the Cornboro herd is steeped in pedigree breeding. From attending various IHFA tours and shows far & wide Brian knew that his interest lay in breeding pedigree Holsteins with top class genetics! In 2004 he began showing, firstly at the Breffni Oriel calf show with a calf called "Cornboro Roy Alice". On this day Alice won the

September class and also went on to win Junior Champion. He subsequently exhibited Alice at the National Calf show where she placed second in a tough class, and won Honourable Mention calf. This early success gave Brian the impetus to continue showing and to get further involved in the Club.

His interest in showing only flourished further when he introduced his daughter Rachel and son Dylan into the show ring. Always generous imparting his broad knowledge and vast experience to all the young members of the Club he helped instil confidence from the outset.

The first hand in the air to volunteer for taking the BOFC YMA team of calves to the National Finals (which is considered "just a short trip") is that of Brian's. Along with all our other volunteers he is involved in transporting and assembling the club stand.

Regarded as one of the father figures involved in assisting the YMA club, Brian is dependable, and is a regular attendee at club events. He also offers up his calves for any young members who want to further their showmanship skills. On regular occasions he has generously hosted YMA workshops to demonstrate and showcase the necessary broad skills and expertise of preparing calves.